THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) An updating survey for new line from Muzaffarpur to Darbhanga was taken up in 1996-97 and completed in November, 1996. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of 65.54 km. long line was assessed as Rs. 107.78 crore with a negative rate of return. The proposal could not be considered due to unremunerative nature and acute financial constraints.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does no arise.

Extension of rail lines in North-Eastern States

4446. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY : WiU the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have prepared perspective plans to extend Railways into the North-Eastern States of Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the scope and time-frame of such plans; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not extending rail linkages into these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (c) The works of Harmuti-Itanagar and Diphu-Karong new lines have been included in the Budget. However, based on request of State Governments, surveys for alternative alignments from Bedeti-Itanagar and Jiribam-Imphal have been taken up. The survey from Jiribam to Imphal has been completed and has been processed further. The completion of these projects would depend upon availability of resources.

Furthermore, the following surveys for new lines are also in progress :—

	Line	*State Involved*
(i)	Jogighopa-Silchar	Meghalaya, Assam
(ii)	Azra-Bymihat	Mehgalaya, Assam
(iii)	Dimapur-Kohima	Nagaland
(iv)	Bhairabi-Sairang	Mizoram